Tea garden companies in Assam

1329. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies own more than four tea gardens in Assam; and

(b) the total number of tea gardens owned by them alongwith the total acreage of land and the area under plantation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Names of the companies which own more than four tea gardens in Assam are given below:—

1. Assam Frontior Tea Ltd.
2. Warren Tea Ltd.
3. Assam Tea Corporation Ltd.
4. Jayshree Tea and Industries Ltd.
5. George Williamson (Assam) Ltd.
6. Tata Tea Ltd.
7. Mc Lood Russel (India) Ltd.
8. Kothari Plantation & Industries Ltd.
9. Macneill & Magor Ltd.
10. Jokai (India) Ltd.
11. Assam Co. (India) Ltd.
12. Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.
13. Jorohaut Tea Company Ltd.
14. Bengal Tea & Industries Ltd.

The aforesaid companies own 144 tea gardens in Assam. As per readily available data, total area of these 144 tea gardens is around 1.30 lakhs hectares of which around 66,000 hectares is under tea.

Labourers in tea gardens in Assam

1330. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of regular and permanent labourers in the tea gardens in Assam;

(b) the total number of casual labourers employed in the tea gardens from outside; and

(c) the present rates of wages being paid to different categories of labourers in Assam tea gardens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI (P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Number of permanent and temporary labourers engaged in tea plantations were around 4.15 lakhs and around 68.000 respectively as on 31-12-1984.

(c) In terms of settlement arrived at on 1.8.1983 for a period of three years, basic daily wages of tea plantation labourers are in the range of Rs. 8.88 to Rs. 10.40 for adults. In addition plantation labour is provided foodgrains at concessional rates.

Branches of Central Bank of India in Assam

1331. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of the branches of the Central Bank of India operating in Assam;

(b) whether there is any proposal for opening of a branch of the Bank at Mangaldai, the district head quarters of Darrang District; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that 44 branches of Central Bank of India were operating in the State of Assam as on 30-6-1986.

(b) and (c) RBI has reported that under the earlier branch licensing policy it had authorised Purbanchal Bank Ltd. to open a branch at Mangaldai. This bank has been given time upto 28th December,